

# MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

April 16, 2020 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

## Conference Call MEETING MINUTES

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### MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Broeker  
Dennis Bush  
Teresa Daubitz  
Jody Eaton  
Kathryn Johnson  
Geoffrey Lauer  
John Parmeter

Timothy Perkins  
Maria Sorensen  
Cory Turner  
Richard Whitaker  
Russell Wood  
Lorrie Young

### MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Thomas Bouska  
Shari O'Bannon  
Senator Jeff Edler

Senator Pam Jochum  
Representative Joel Fry  
Representative Scott Ourth

### OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong  
Emily Berry  
Brooke Lovelace  
Katie Peck  
Julie Maas  
Flora Schmidt  
Jason Vermeer

MHDS, Bureau Chief Community Services & Planning  
OCA/NAMI Iowa  
DD Council  
Easter Seals  
MHDS, Community Services & Planning  
Iowa Behavioral Health Association  
Iowa Total Care

### Welcome and Call to Order

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with thirteen members present. John identified he would have a conflict of interest during the vote for commission officers. John asked meeting participants to limit questions and comments to the end of presentations and the public until public comment.

### Approval of Minutes

Russell Wood made a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Lorrie Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Election of Commission Officers

John Parmeter said the March meeting is usually when the nominations committee is formed but since the meeting was cancelled he reached out to Richard Whitaker and Russell Wood to select nominations for chair and vice chair. Russell Wood declined because he was interested in being nominated for vice chair. Richard Whitaker said that he would like to nominate John Parmeter for chair and Russell Wood for vice chair.

There was discussion on the tenure left for Kathy Johnson and Jody Eaton whose terms expire in April. John Parmeter turned the voting over to Kathy Johnson.

Geoff Lauer moved to accept the nomination committees recommendations for officers. Dennis Bush seconded the motion. The motion passed with John Parmeter and Russell Wood abstaining.

### **MHDS Update –Theresa Armstrong**

Theresa said she hoped everyone is doing well during this challenging time and thanked everyone who is working hard during our new normal and continuing to reach out to people and provide assistance.

Theresa said that she would give an update on DHS activities but the list is not exhaustive of all DHS activities. Theresa said the DBART teams which have recently been used for disaster relief due to flooding have been called on to provide stress management and crisis services related to covid. Karen Hyatt from MHDS is involved with the disaster relief operations. Chapter 24 accreditation staff have been reaching out to CMHCs and crisis service providers as well as other accredited providers to know how they are operating and what barriers chapter 24 is posing for providing services during this time so they can remove them. There are currently no onsite accreditation reviews taking place and accreditations that are expiring during this time are being extended. Providers are using telehealth wherever possible and being creative in how they are reaching out and interacting with the people they serve.

Mental health block grant providers are having to relook at their dollars as they budgeted a lot of their money for trainings that aren't able to take place right now. DHS is working on amending their contracts and budgets as necessary.

Medicaid has applied for and been granted several waivers from CMS and it's important to remember that just because Medicaid was granted a waiver doesn't mean they will be implementing the waiver. There are several waivers they have been given authority to implement but they are still accessing the situation. One of the waivers Medicaid has not implemented is for PASRR to be completed within 30 days of a person being admitted to a nursing home. Waivers that have been implemented right away are that copays and premiums are being waived, home delivered meals and homemaker services have been added, family members can provide direct services, telehealth can be utilized wherever it is clinically appropriate, and they are not disenrolling any individuals eligible for Medicaid. The federal match has been increased for services specifically.

DHS did emergency rules to put up emergency childcare sites since many have closed temporarily and provided cleaning supplies and PPE for emergency sites.

Theresa said that most of DHS is on a work from home status. The facilities are still operating with staff coming in but have taken extra precautions to keep staff and residents safe. DHS case management and field workers are using telehealth to stay in contact with families and child welfare is doing the same.

Theresa encouraged providers to pay attention to stimulus packages that are coming from the federal government straight to providers and that provider associations are doing a good job of communicating those opportunities to their providers.

Theresa said that IDPH is taking the lead on a SAMHSA grant related to emergency services for mental health and substance use disorder. The grant is looking to fund providers directly and DHS is going to try to put extra dollars in to expand the warmline as well as working with YLI in expanding resources.

Theresa said that MHDS is working with CDD and the DD Council to bring a trainer into the state for person centered planning and positive behavior supports training. Matt Enyart is the trainer and is from a UCEDD in another state. There will be a train the trainer for 20-25 people who commit to training organizations and beyond and 4 statewide trainings for community providers. There will also be an opportunity for online technical assistance. The goal was to occur between June and August and are planning to do some online components if they can't be done in person.

The Children State Board will be meeting via zoom on May 12 from 9-12 and a portion of their meeting will be on children's implementation plans. The plans were due April 1<sup>st</sup> along with their annual service and budgets. The plans being presented will be draft plans since they may not be approved by their governing boards and are under review by MHDS.

Theresa said Muscatine County was looking to leave Eastern IA MHDS and move to SEIL but SEIL voted not to accept them into their region. DHS assigned Muscatine to remain in Eastern IA region given the pandemic that is going on right now. Eastern IA accepted and understood the decision.

Legislative session has been delayed and we heard they would be focused on appropriations and budget bills but been some talk that there are still policy bills they are interested in. SF2408 put some dollars in related up to the first 2 months of FY21 and supplemental dollars for Medicaid and GRC.

Theresa gave an update on DHS Hiring including a new administrator for the MHDS Community Division is Marissa Eyanson. Marissa is currently focused on Medicaid and hasn't made any movement but knows community services very well. The search for an administrator for facilities continues. Janee Harvey is new administrator for the Adult, Children, and Family Services Division. Hiring still continues for GRC superintendent.

Richard Whitaker asked if there is a timeline for how the federal match will flow to providers. Theresa said that Medicaid is still looking at that and putting a plan in place.

### **Recognizing Outgoing Commission Members**

John Parmeter thanked the commission members who were finishing out their terms and said that he has learned so much from them over the last 5 years he has been on the Commission. John thanked the outgoing members for their insight and said he hoped they would continue to attend meetings. The outgoing commission members said it was an honor to be on the Commission and thanked everyone for the knowledge and experience they bring to the group.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

The Commission requested presentations on public policy advocacy, the legislator panel at the May meeting, evidenced based practices and promising practices not being used in Iowa but are Medicaid approved in other states, update on complex needs development, and mental health advocate data.

### **Public Comment**

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Maas.